

THE BROWNIES IN THE PHILIPPINES By Palmer Cox



① While Brownies Albay's highway lined,
A cyclone struck them from behind.



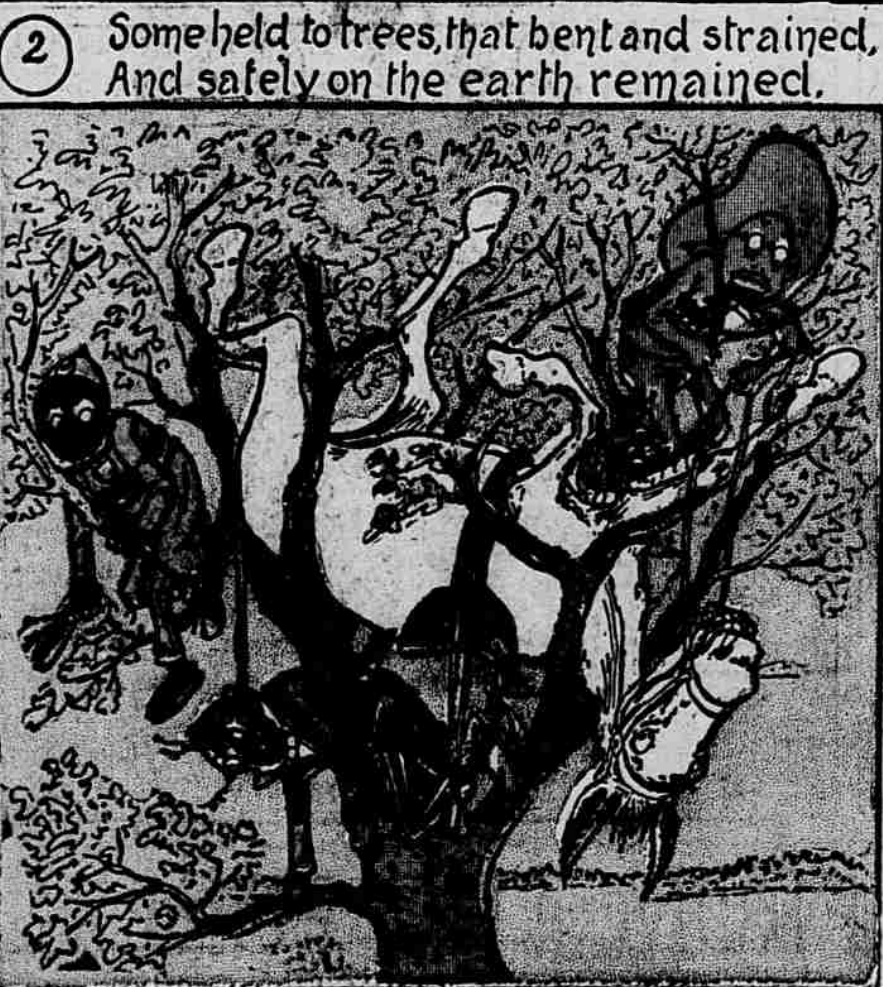
② Some held to trees, that bent and strained,
And safely on the earth remained.



③ A beast, that other Brownies rode,
Was lifted skyward with its load.



④ Revolving through the air, it passed,
With daring Brownies clinging fast.



⑤ Until arrested in its flight,
By branches strong that held it tight.



⑥ And Brownies worked for hours at least
To disengage the wretched beast.

FABLE OF THE TALL ELEPHANT WHO WAS RIDICULED BY HIS COMPANION.

"Mr. Spindle Shanks," Persecuted at Home Took to the Jungle, Where He Lived a Hermit Until Captured by Hunters and Presented to a King of the Orient, Who Prized the Beast Because of Its Great Height.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

Once upon a time there was an elephant who was born a freak, so to say. Later in life this made him a mark for his playmates, and all who were wont to have fun at some other fellow's expense. While this caused the poor elephant considerable annoyance, it had no effect on him till finally they began calling him "Mr. Spindle Shanks," on account of his long legs, and from then on life became a burden to him. His mother tried to console him and teach him to bear up under his misfortune, but without avail. He vowed that just as soon as he was able to take care of himself he would become a hermit and then should be rid of the scoffs and scorn of his fellow-beings. This caused his mother great uneasiness, for she felt that under such circumstances her son's usefulness would be at an end. She sought the advice of a dear friend, a giraffe with several children, who, feeling pity in her heart for the sorrowing mother, prevailed on her to let him go and stay a while with her children, for she felt sure that they at least would not abuse the poor unfortunate. So it was arranged that on a certain day the giraffe was to call and take him to her home.

His mother, of course, made great preparations for her son's departure, and before the day arrived for him to go everything was in readiness. The young elephant looked forward to the trip with no pleasure at all, for he felt sure that in a little while it would be the same old story, and the young giraffes would be making game of his deformity. Now, this preyed so heavily on his mind that finally he could stand it no longer, and, stealing into the house unobserved, he seized the grip which his mother had packed, and made off for parts unknown.



FIND THE TALL ELEPHANT, THE HUNTERS, THE KING AND THE GIRAFFE.

Moral of the Story Is That We Should Never Jump at Conclusions Too Quickly as Afflictions Sometimes Prove Blessings in Disguise and Thereby Enable the Unfortunates to Successfully Earn Their Way in the World.

When the giraffe arrived home she informed her children of the intended visit of the long-legged elephant, and they chuckled with glee in anticipation of the sport they would have at his expense. They, too, it would seem, like so many who had made the poor elephant's life miserable, felt no compassion for him at all, and he was wise in not caring to visit them.

After the young elephant left home he traveled for days and days, finally taking up his abode in a dense and gloomy forest; and for the first time in years he knew peace of mind, for there were none to ridicule him on account of his very long legs. It seemed a great pity, that one having such good traits as he should be compelled, through no fault of his own, to pass his days in such awful solitude. The sequel of this story, however, will show that Providence never forsakes the good in heart. One day, while he was sleeping, he found himself suddenly pinioned to the ground, and on looking up saw that he had been made prisoner by a band of hunters. After they had secured him with chains they drove him off to the palace of the King, who, on account of his wonderful legs, prized him above all his sacred elephants, and made him the chief idol. Then there came great numbers of Princes, with their multitudes of followers, who made offerings of fruit, flowers and riches, and fell down and worshipped him. The elephant came to love these simple-minded people very much, and in time forgot those unhappy days when he had been "Mr. Spindle Shanks." So he became grateful to the kind Providence which had given him such enormous legs.

The moral of this fable is: Don't jump at conclusions too quickly; afflictions sometimes prove blessings in disguise. H. M. SCHMIDT.